

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-43 are pending in the present application, Claims 23, 28, 29, 36, and 43 having been amended, and Claim 27 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments to Claims 23, 36, and 43 is found, for example, in Claim 27. Claims 28 and 29 are amended to change dependency in light of the cancellation of Claim 27. Accordingly, no new matter is added. The present amendment places the application in condition for allowance, as explained below, and should be entered.

In the outstanding Office Action Figs. 5, 10, and 16 were objected to; Claims 37-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101; Claims 23-26, 31, 32, 34-41, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Cox et al. (EP 0840513, hereinafter Cox); Claims 30 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Cox in view of Sharma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,329, hereinafter Sharma); Claims 1-22 and 42 were allowed; and Claims 27-29 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated as including allowable subject matter.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101, Applicants respectfully submit that these matters were overcome by the Amendment under 35 CFR §1.116, filed on January 4, 2006, and entered as indicated by the Advisory Action mailed February 1, 2006. Accordingly, these matters are now moot.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 1-22 and 42, and the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 27-29. In light of this indication, Claim 23 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 27. Claims 36 and 43 are also amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 27.

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Furthermore, Applicants are not abandoning the subject matter of the claims that have been rejected and that have been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application for any of the rejected or canceled subject matter.

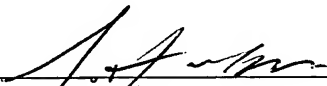
Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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